

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MAISA KURDI,

Plaintiff,

v.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:22-cv-00729-JLT-EPG

ORDER SETTING SETTLEMENT  
CONFERENCE

**Settlement Statements due: April 16, 2025**  
**Settlement Conference: April 23, 2025 at 10:00**  
**AM**

At the parties' joint request (*see* Docs. 70, 71), Magistrate Judge Christopher D. Baker will hold a settlement conference on **April 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** Unless the parties request the conference to be in-person, the Court will conduct the settlement conference via video conference. The Zoom settlement conference invitation will be distributed by the Court to the parties the week prior to the conference date.<sup>1</sup> The Court has reserved the entire day for this settlement conference and expects the parties will proceed with the settlement conference in good faith and attempt to resolve all or part of the case. If any party believes that the settlement conference will not be productive, that party shall so inform the court no less than three (3) days in advance of the settlement conference.

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<sup>1</sup> Any difficulties concerning Zoom video conference, or connecting to the Zoom video conference, shall immediately be reported to Cori Boren, Courtroom Deputy for Judge Baker, at CBoren@caed.uscourts.gov.

1 Unless otherwise permitted in advance by the Court, the following individuals must attend  
2 the settlement conference: (1) all of the attorney(s) who will try the case; and (2) individuals with  
3 full authority to negotiate and settle the case, on any terms. *See* Local Rule 270(f).

4 The parties shall engage in informal settlement negotiations as follows. **No later than**  
5 **March 5, 2025**, Plaintiff shall submit to Defendant, by mail, a written itemization of damages and  
6 a meaningful settlement demand, including a brief explanation of why such settlement is  
7 appropriate, which shall not exceed five (5) pages. **No later than March 14, 2025**, Defendant shall  
8 respond, by mail or telephone, with an acceptance of Plaintiff's offer or a meaningful counteroffer,  
9 including a brief explanation of why such settlement is appropriate. If settlement is achieved, the  
10 parties shall file a Notice of Settlement as required by Local Rule 160.

11 If informal settlement negotiations are unsuccessful, **no later than April 16, 2025**, each  
12 party must submit to Judge Baker's chambers at [CDBorders@caed.uscourts.gov](mailto:CDBorders@caed.uscourts.gov) a confidential  
13 settlement conference statement. These statements should neither be filed on the docket nor served  
14 on any other party.

15 In compliance with Local Rule 270(d)-(e), the settlement statements will be used  
16 exclusively by Judge Baker to prepare for and conduct the settlement conference and not for any  
17 other purpose. If applicable, the statements should be marked "CONFIDENTIAL." *See* Local  
18 Rule 270(d).

19 The statements should not exceed ten (10) pages and must include:

20 (1) a brief recitation of the facts;

21 (2) a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the case, including the party's position  
22 on the factual and legal issues and brief review of the evidence to support that party's factual  
23 position;

24 (3) an itemized estimate of the expected costs for further discovery, pretrial, and trial  
25 matters, in specific dollar terms;

26 (4) the party's best estimate of the probability that it will prevail should this case proceed  
27 to trial;

28 (5) the party's best estimate of the damages or relief plaintiff may recover should this case

1 proceed to trial and plaintiff prevail (in specific dollar terms and/or injunctive relief, if applicable);

2 (6) a history of settlement discussions (including a listing of any current settlement offers  
3 from any party, in specific dollar terms), a candid statement of the party's current position on  
4 settlement, including **the amount that it will give/accept to settle** (in specific dollar terms), and a  
5 statement of the party's expectations for settlement discussions;

6 (7) a list of the individuals who will be attending the settlement on the party's behalf,  
7 including names and, if appropriate, titles.

8 At the outset of the settlement conference, the undersigned may call upon the parties'  
9 counsel and the party representatives to briefly discuss their expectations for the conference and  
10 other matters of mutual interest before the parties break into separate caucuses.

11 Notwithstanding the provisions of Federal Rule of Evidence 408, all statements made by  
12 the parties relating to the substance or merits of the case, whether written or oral, made for the first  
13 time during the settlement conference will be deemed to be confidential and shall not be admissible  
14 in evidence for any reason in the trial of the case, should the case not settle. This provision does  
15 not preclude admissibility in other contexts, such as pertaining to a motion for sanctions regarding  
16 the settlement conference.

17 IT IS SO ORDERED.

18 Dated: **February 13, 2025**

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20 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE